No. 16.

THE SPEECH OF *DENZELL HOLLES* Esquire.

Delivered at the Lords Barr, *Wednesday* the 15th. of *June*, Vpon the Impeachment of the Earles of *North-hampton*, *Devon-shire*, *Monmouth*, and *Dover*, and of the Lords *Rich*, *Andever*, *Grey* of *Ruthen*, *Coventry* and *Capell*, for their contempt in departing from the PARLIAMENT, and not returning upon Summons.

Die Mercurij, 22. *Iunij*, 1642.

It is this day ordered that this Speech shall be forthwith printed, and that no person shall print this Speech, but such M. *Holles* shall appoint. *H. Elsyng. Cler. Parl. D. Com.*

I appoint that none shall print this but *Thomas Vnderhill*.

Denzell Holles.

LONDON,

Printed for *Thomas Vnderhill* at the Signe of the Bible in *Wood-street*, 1642.

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THE SPEECH OF *DENZELL*

Holles Esquire, Delivered at the LORDS Barr, *Wednesday* the 15th. of *June*. Upon the Impeachment of the Earles of *Northampton*, &c.

My Lords,

BY the Command of the Knights, Citizens and Burgesles of the House of Commons, I come hither unto your Lordships in the behalfe of the *Parliament*, or rather in the behalfe of the whole *Kingdom*, labouring with much distraction, many feares, great apprehensions of evill and mischiefe intended against it, and now hatching and preparing by that Malignant party, which thirsts after the destruction of *Religion*, *Lawes* and *Liberty*, all which are foulded up, cherished, and preserved in the carefull bosome of the Parliament.

My Lords, The Parliament is the Foundation and

Basis of Government, and consequently of the Peace and Happinesse of the Kingdome. As it creates the Law by which we are ruled and governed in Peace and quietnesse, so it preserves the Law in Power and Authority: It watches over our Religion, that it be not supplanted and changed by superstitious Innovations; the truth and substance of it eaten up with Formality, vaine Pomp, and unnecessary Ceremonies; the grosse Errours of Popery and Arminianisme imposed upon us, as the Doctrine of our Church; A way opened to all licentiousnesse; And occasion hereby taken to oppresse and persecute all religious and conscientious men that shall oppose these Proceedings, (as hath bin used of late.) It is the *Conservative* of the Rights and Liberties of the Subject, and the *Corrective* of Injustice and Oppression; whereby equall Right is distributed to all, and every Man hath that benefit and protection of Justice, which is due unto him. It is that, by which alone, common Necessities can be provided for, and publike Feares prevented: So that I may say, not onely the Peace, and Happinesse, and well being, but the very *Being* of this Kingdome, can have no other bottome to stand upon, but the Parliament, it being the Foundation upon which the whole Frame of the Common-wealth is built.

Therefore those who would destroy the Building, apply themselves to undermine the Foundation. If they can take away Parliaments, or but weaken the

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Power and Authority of Parliament, which is all one, (For if it once have no Power, it will soone have no *Being*) they know then all will be at their mercy, nothing will stand in their way to oppose them, but a floud of violence will run over, and cover the whole Surface of the Kingdome, and carry away all, both present Enjoyment, and future Hope of Religion, Liberty, and whatsoever else is precious and deare unto us.

And accordingly, it hath ever bin the Policy of evill Counsellors (who are the greatest Enemies wee have in the world, or can have) to strike at Parliaments, keepe off Parliaments, breake Parliaments, or divide Parliaments, by making Factions, casting in Diversions, and Obstructions, to hinder and interrupt Proceedings of Parliament: All against the Parliament.

Your Lordships have had experience of this Truth this Parliament; A Succession of Designes upon it: First to awe it, and take away the Freedome of it by the terrour of an Army; Then to bring Force against it, actually to assault it, and with the Sword cut in sunder this onely *Band*, which tyes and knits up King and People, the People among themselves, and the whole Frame of this Government in one firme, and I hope indissoluble knot of Peace and Vnity.

God diverted those Designes, did blow upon them; presently another is set upon, which was to

obſtruct and hinder our Proceedings, that in the meane time the flame of *Rebellion* might conſume the Kingdome of *Ireland*, and Diſtempers, Diſtractions, and Iealouſies be fomented here at home, to teare out the Bowels of this Kingdome; the Parliament being diſabled from helping it by occaſion of ſo many Diverſions, ſo much buſineſſe cut out unto it, many Obſtructions and Difficulties, eſpecially that great one, from which all the reſt receive countenance and ſupport, His Majeſties abſenting Himſelfe, not concurring with us, and ſo with-drawing both His *Preſence* and *Influence*, by which meanes ſuch Remedies could not be applyed, as were neceſſary, and what was done, was done with infinite trouble to the Parliament, and exceſſive charge to the Subject, double, treble, what otherwiſe would have ſerved the turne: So the Subject is grieved and oppreſſed with charge, and the blame of all is laid upon the *Parliament*, & the Parliament unjuſtly ſaid to be the cauſe of al thoſe evils, which the Authors of them had made ſo great, & ſo confirmed and ſecured by the frequent interruptions of the Parliament, that they could not ſuddenly, nor eaſily be ſuppreſſed or removed.

Well, but by Gods infinite bleſſing the Parliament was in a faire poſſibility to wade through this likewiſe; And though the Night had bin blacke and ſtormy, ſome Day began to appeare: Miraculouſly our Armes have proſpered in *Ireland*, and God be prai-

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ſed, the malevolent Practiſes of theſe Vipers at home, as they appeared, were in ſome ſort maſtered; And the Parliament began to act and operate towards the ſetling of the great Affaires both of Church and State, and providing for the Defence and Safety of this Kingdome, againſt either forrain Invaſion, or any ſtirring of the diſaffected Party among our ſelves.

Then three wayes are together aſſayed for the weakning and invalidating the Proceeding and Power of the *Parliament*, and making way for the utter ſubverſion of it.

One, Force is gathered together at *Yorke*, under pretence of a Guard for His Majeſties Perſon, to make an oppoſition againſt the *Parliament*, and by a ſtrong hand to ſupport and protect *Delinquents*, ſo as no *Order* of *Parliament* can be obeyed, but on the other ſide is ſleighted and ſcorned, to make the *Parliament* of no reputation, to be but *Imago Parliamenti*, a meere ſhadow, without ſubſtance, without efficacy.

An other, To ſend out in His Majeſties Name, and as *Declarations* and *Meſſages* from Him, bitter Invectives againſt the *Parliament*, to perplex it, and ingage it in the expence of time to anſwer them: And beſides, cunningly to inſinuate, and infuſe into the People by falſe Colours and Gloſſes, a diſopinion and diſlike of the *Parliament*, and if it be

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obstruct and hinder our Proceedings, that in the meane time the flame of *Rebellion* might consume the Kingdome of *Ireland*, and Distempers, Distractions, and Iealousies be fomented here at home, to teare out the Bowels of this Kingdome; the Parliament being disabled from helping it by occasion of so many Diversions, so much businesse cut out unto it, many Obstructions and Difficulties, especially that great one, from which all the rest receive countenance and support, His Majesties absenting Himselfe, not concurring with us, and so with-drawing both His *Presence* and *Influence*, by which meanes such Remedies could not be applyed, as were necessary, and what was done, was done with infinite trouble to the Parliament, and excessive charge to the Subject, double, treble, what otherwise would have served the turne: So the Subject is grieved and oppressed with charge, and the blame of all is laid upon the *Parliament*, & the Parliament unjustly said to be the cause of al those evils, which the Authors of them had made so great, & so confirmed and secured by the frequent interruptions of the Parliament, that they could not suddenly, nor easily be suppressed or removed.

Well, but by Gods infinite blessing the Parliament was in a faire possibility to wade through this likewise; And though the Night had bin blacke and stormy, some Day began to appeare: Miraculously our Armes have prospered in *Ireland*, and God be praised,

ſed, the malevolent Practiſes of theſe Vipers at home, as they appeared, were in ſome ſort maſtered; And the Parliament began to act and operate towards the ſetling of the great Affaires both of Church and State, and providing for the Defence and Safety of this Kingdome, againſt either forrain Invaſion, or any ſtirring of the diſaffected Party among our ſelves.

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possible, to stirre up their spirits to rise against it, to destroy it (and in it all other Parliaments) to the ruine of themselves, their Wives and Children.

The third Plot is, The *Members* are drawne away, and perswaded to forsake their Duty and Attendance here, and goe downe to *Yorke*; thereby to blemish the Actions of both *Houses*, as done by a few and an inconsiderable number, and rather a *Party*, than a *Parliament*; and perhaps, to raise and set up an *Anti-Parliament* there.

My Lords, This is now the great Designe, whereby they hope by little and little, the *Parliament* shall even bleed to death, and moulder to nothing; the *Members* dropping away, one after another. A desperate and dangerous practise, and as your *Lordships* well observed (when you were pleased to communicate this businesse to us) an effect of the evill *Councells* now prevailing and tending to the dissolution of the *Parliament*; Of this *Parliament*, which under God must be the *Preserver* of three Kingdoms and keepe them firme and loyall to their King, subject to His Crowne, save them from being turn into a *Chaos* of disorder and confusion; and made a dismall spectacle of misery and desolation. This *Parliament*, which is the last hope of the long oppressed, and in other *Countries* even almost wholly destroyed *Protestant Religion*: This *Parliament* which is the onely meanes to continue us to be a Na-

Nation of free-men and not ſlaves, to be owners of any thing; That we may call our wives, our children, our eſtates, nay our bodies our owne: In a word, which muſt ſtand in the gapp to prevent an in-let, and inundation of all miſery and confuſion.

My Lords, This *Parliament* they deſire to deſtroy, but I hope it will deſtroy the deſtroyers, and be a *wall of fire* to conſume them, as it is a *wall of braſſe to us*, to defend King and Kingdome, us, and all we have.

Your *Lordſhips* wiſely ſore-ſaw this miſchiefe, and as wiſely have endeavoured to prevent it, by making your *Orders*, to keepe your Members here, as that of the 9th of *Aprill*, and ſeverall other *Orders* enjoyning them all to attend; thereby reſtraining them from repayring to *Yorke*, where the Cloudes were obſerved to gather ſo faſt, and threaten a ſtorme, and ſuch preparations to be made againſt the Parliament, that it neceſſitated both *Houſes* to paſſe a Vote: *That the King ſeduced by wicked Counſell, intended to make warre againſt the Parliament, and all who ſhall ſerve or aſſiſt in ſuch warres are declared to be Traitors*; which Vote paſt the 20th of *May*: ſo ſetting a marke upon that place, and their opinion concerning thoſe who ſhould at this time reſort thither.

Yet now, in ſuch a *conjuncture* of time, when the Kingdome had never more need of a Parliament, and the Parliament never more need of all

the helpe and assistance of the best indeavour and advise of every *Member*, the safety and even being of the three *Kingdomes* depending upon it; after such *Orders* and *Commands* of your Lordships House to the contrary; such a *Vote* of both Houses; and expressely against their Duty, being called thither by Writ under the great Seale, which is the Kings greatest and highest Command, and not controulable nor to bee dispenced with by any other Command from him whatsoever; and called, to treat and consult *de arduis Regni*, the great urging and pressing affaires of the Kingdome, never more urgent, never more pressing; notwithstanding all this, these Lords, the Earles of *Northampton*, *Devonshire*, *Dover*, *Mounmouth*, and the Lords *Rich*, *Andever*, *Grey*, *Coventry* and *Capell*, have left their stations, with-drawne themselves, and are gone to *Yorke*, and being summoned to appeare by an *Order* of the 30th of *May*, instead of obedience, returne a *refusall*, by a *sleighting* and *scornefull Letter*, which hath beene so adjudged, both by your Lordships and the House of Commons.

My Lords, The House of Commons hath likewise upon the consideration and debate of this businesse, finding it so much to concerne the *Safety* of the *Kingdom*, and the very *Being* of the Parliament, passed this Vote.

That

That the departing of these nine Lords from the Parliament, without leave, after such time as both Houses had declared, That the King seduced by wicked Councell intended to make warre against the Parliament, and their still continuing at Yorke, *notwithstanding their Summons and Command, is a high affront and contempt of both Houses, And that the said Lords therein, did as much as in them lay, that the Service of Parliament might be deserted, and are justly suspected to promote a war against the* Parliament.

And the House in further Prosecution of their Duty in this particular, and in pursuance of their *Protestation*, which obliges them to indeavour to bring to condigne punishment all such high Offenders against, not onely the *Priviledges*, but the very *Essence* of Parliament, have sent mee up to Impeach these Lords, and desire that speedy and exemplary Justice may be done upon them.

And accordingly, *I doe here in the Name of the* Knights, Citizens *and* Burgesses *of the* Commons House *assembled in* Parliament, *and in the Name of all the* Commons *of* ENGLAND, *Impeach* SPENCER *Earle of* North-hampton, WILLIAM *Earle of* Devonshiere, HENRY *Earle of* Dover, HENRY *Earle of* Moun-

mouth, CHARLES *Lord* HOWARD *of* Charlton, ROBERT *Lord* RICH, CHARLES *Lord* GREY *of* Ruthen, THOMAS *L.* COVENTRY *and* ARTHUR *L.* CAPELL, *for these high* Crimes *and* Misdemeanors *following*, VIZ.

For that, contrary to their duty, they being Peers of the Realme, and ſummoned by Writ to attend the Parliament, and contrary to an Order *of the Houſe of Peeres of the* 9th. *of* April *laſt, and ſeverall other* Orders, *requiring the Attendance of the Members of that Houſe, and after a* Vote *paſt in both Houſes the* 20th. *of* May *laſt, That the King ſeduced by wicked Councell, intended to make warre againſt the Parliament, and that whoſoever ſerved or aſſiſted him in that warre, was adjudged a Traitor, did notwithſtanding afterwards in the ſame Month of* May, *contemptuouſly, having notice of the ſaid* Votes *and* Orders, *with-draw themſelves from the ſaid Houſe of Peers, and repaire to the City of* Yorke, *where the Preparations of the ſaid warre were, and yet are, in contrivance*

and

and agitation, they knowing of ſuch Preparations: And being by an Order *of the* 30th *of* May *duly ſummoned by the* Houſe *of Peeres, to make their appearance before that* Houſe *upon the* 8th. *day of* Iune *laſt paſt, they refuſed to appeare, and returned a* ſcornefull Anſwer *by a Letter under their hands, directed to the* Speaker of the Lords Houſe, *and remaining there upon record.*

For which Crimes *aud* Miſdemeanours *to the Interruption of the proceedings of Parliament, and great affaires of the Kingdome, and tending to the diſſolution of the Parliament, and diſturbance of the Peace of the Kingdome, I am commanded in the Name of the ſaid Commons to demand of your* Lordſhips, *That the ſaid* Lords *may be forthwith put to their Anſwer, and receive ſpeedy and exemplary puniſhment, according to their Demerits.*

The Commons ſaving to themſelves liberty at all times hereafter, to exhibit any other or further Impeachment or Accuſation againſt the ſaid Lords, *or any of them.*

FINIS.

*EC65.H7237.642s2b

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